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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/620,100 | BARROW ET AL. |
| | Examiner Linh M. Nguyen | Art Unit 2816 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to application filed 07/14/2003.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. The drawings filed on 22 May 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 01/20/04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-20 are currently presented in the instant application according to the Applicants' filing on 07/14/2003.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest

- An apparatus for generating a pulsed output signal including a logic circuit that is configured to receive a clock signal and a comparison signal, the logic circuit is arranged to: de-assert a selector control signal when the clock signal is asserted, assert the selector control signal when the clock signal is de-asserted and a comparison signal is asserted, de-assert the pulse output signal when the clock signal is asserted, assert a comparator reset signal when the clock signal is asserted, assert the pulsed output signal while the clock signal is de-asserted and a ramp signal is between a first signal and a second signal, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 1; or

- A method for providing a pulsed output signal including steps of a) selecting a third operating mode when a ramp signal exceeds a first signal during a second operating mode; b) comparing the ramp signal to a second signal during a third operating mode, wherein the second signal is different from the first signal; and c) asserting the pulsed output signal during the third operating mode while the second signal is greater than the ramp signal, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 9; or

•An apparatus for generating a pulsed output signal, in which a fourth means for resetting is arranged to reset the pulsed output signal when a first operating mode is activated, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 15.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1749. The examiner can normally be reached on Alternate Mon, Tuesday - Friday from 7:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Linh M. Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2816

LMN

